

effective and involves a range of State agencies; and

“(iii) involve the State Head Start Association in the selection of the Director and involve the Association in determinations relating to the ongoing direction of the collaboration office.

“(D) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration shall—

“(i) not later than 1 year after the State receives a collaboration grant under subparagraph (B), conduct an assessment that—

“(I) addresses the needs of Head Start agencies in the State with respect to collaboration, coordination, and alignment of services, and alignment of curricula and assessments with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework, and with State early learning standards, as appropriate;

“(II) shall be updated on an annual basis; and

“(III) shall be made available to the general public within the State;

“(ii) develop a strategic plan that is based on the assessment described in clause (i) that will—

“(I) enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services with other entities providing early childhood programs and services (such as child care or services offered by museums), health care, mental health care, welfare, child protective services, education and community service activities, family literacy services, reading readiness programs (including such programs offered by public and school libraries), services relating to children with disabilities, other early childhood programs and services for limited English proficient children and homeless children, and services provided for children in foster care and children referred to Head Start programs by child welfare agencies, including agencies and State officials responsible for such services;

“(II) assist Head Start agencies to develop a plan for the provision of full-working-day, full calendar year services for children enrolled in Head Start programs who need such care;

“(III) assist Head Start agencies to align curricula and assessments with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and to the State early learning standards, as appropriate; and

“(IV) enable Head Start agencies in the State to better access professional development opportunities for Head Start staff, such as by—

“(aa) working with local Head Start agencies to meet the degree requirements described in section 648A(a)(2)(A), including providing distance learning opportunities for Head Start staff, where needed to make higher education more accessible to Head Start staff; and

“(bb) enabling the State Head Start agencies to better conduct outreach to eligible families;

“(iii) promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector to help ensure that children, who are in Head Start programs, are receiving comprehensive services to prepare the children to enter school ready to succeed;

“(iv) consult with the chief State school officer, local educational agencies, and providers of early childhood education and care, regarding early care and education services at both the State and local levels;

“(v) promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, schools, law enforcement, relevant community-based organizations, and substance abuse and mental health treatment agencies to strengthen family and community environments and to reduce the impact on child development of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and other high risk behaviors that compromise healthy development;

“(vi) promote partnerships between Head Start agencies and other organizations in order to enhance Head Start program quality, including partnerships to promote inclusion of more boys in Head Start classrooms;

“(vii) identify other resources and organizations (both public and private) for the provision of in-kind services to Head Start agencies in the State; and

“(viii) work with the State Early Learning Council in order to assist the efforts of Head Start agencies to engage in effective coordination and collaboration.

“(6) EARLY HEAD START.—

“(A) AMOUNTS RESERVED.—From amounts reserved and allotted pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (4), the Secretary shall use, for grants for programs described in section 645A(a), a portion of the combined total of such amounts that is not less than 12 percent for fiscal year 2008, not less than 14 percent for fiscal year 2009, not less than 16 percent for fiscal year 2010, not less than 18 percent for fiscal year 2011, and not less than 20 percent for fiscal year 2012 of the amount appropriated pursuant to section 639(a).

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) For any fiscal year for which the Secretary determines that the amount appropriated under section 639(a) is not sufficient to permit the Secretary to reserve the portion described in subparagraph (A) without reducing the number of children served by Head Start programs or adversely affecting the quality of Head Start services, relative to the number of children served and the quality of the services during the preceding fiscal year, the Secretary may reduce the percentage of funds required to be reserved for the portion described in subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year for which the determination is made, but not below the percentage required to be so reserved for the preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 639(a) is reduced to a level that requires a lower amount to be made available under this subchapter to Head Start agencies and entities described in section 645A, relative to the amount made available to such agencies and entities for the preceding fiscal year, adjusted as described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall proportionately reduce—

“(I) the amounts made available to such entities for programs carried out under section 645A; and

“(II) the amounts made available to such Head Start agencies for Head Start programs.

“(7) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘State’ does not include Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”.

(b) SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS.—Section 640(f) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS.—

“(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Improving Head Start Act of 2007, the Secretary shall establish procedures to enable Head Start agencies to develop locally designed or specialized service delivery models to address local community needs, including models that leverage the existing capacity and capabilities of the delivery system of early childhood education and child care.

“(2) In establishing the procedures, the Secretary shall establish procedures to provide for—

“(A) the conversion of part-day programs to full-day programs or part-day slots to full-day slots; and

“(B) serving additional infants and toddlers pursuant to section 645(a)(4).”.

(c) EXPANSION OF HEAD START PROGRAMS.—Section 640(g) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(g)) is amended in paragraph (2)—

(1) by striking “For the purpose of expanding Head Start programs, in” and inserting “In”, and

(2) by amending subparagraphs (C) through (H) to read as follows:

“(C) the extent to which the applicant has undertaken community-wide strategic planning and needs assessments involving other community organizations and local public agencies serving children and families with Federal, State, or local funds (including organizations and agencies providing family support services,

child abuse prevention services, protective services, and foster care, and organizations serving families in whose homes English is not the language customarily spoken), and individuals, organizations, and public entities serving children with disabilities or homeless children, including the local educational agency liaison designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii));

“(D) the extent to which the family and community needs assessment of the applicant reflects a need to provide full working-day or full calendar year services and the extent to which, and manner in which, the applicant demonstrates the ability to collaborate and participate with the State and local community providers of child care or preschool services to provide full working-day full calendar year services;

“(E) the number of eligible children in each community who are not participating in a Head Start program or any other early childhood program;

“(F) the concentration of low-income families in each community;

“(G) the extent to which the applicant proposes to foster partnerships with other service providers in a manner that will leverage the existing delivery systems of such services and enhance the resource capacity of the applicant;

“(H) the extent to which the applicant, in providing services, successfully coordinated its activities with the local educational agency serving the community involved, (including the local educational agency liaison designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)) and with schools in which children participating in a Head Start program operated by such agency will enroll following such program, regarding such services and the education services provided by such local educational agency; and

“(I) the amount of funds used by such agency to pay administrative expenses and the amount of available funds received by such agency under this section to service each enrolled child.”.

(d) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regulations establishing requirements for the safety features, and the safe operation, of vehicles used by Head Start agencies to transport children participating in Head Start programs.

(2) GOOD CAUSE WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall allow Head Start agencies to annually request a good cause exception to the requirements of regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) for one or more vehicles used by the agency or its designee in transporting children enrolled in a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program if—

(A) such requirements would create a safety hazard in the circumstances faced by such agency; or

(B) such requirements pertain to child restraint systems (45 C.F.R. 1310.11, 1310.15(a)) or bus monitors (45 C.F.R. 1310.15(c));

(C) the agency demonstrates that compliance with such requirements will result in a significant disruption to the Head Start program or the Early Head Start program; and

(D) the waiver is in the best interest of the children involved.

(e) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PROGRAMS.—Section 640(l) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(l)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall continue the administrative arrangement at the national level for meeting the needs of Indian children and children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and shall ensure that appropriate funding is provided to